

## For More Information

The application to apply for ETV funding  
is available online at:  
[www.dss.sd.gov/cps/independentlivingprogram](http://www.dss.sd.gov/cps/independentlivingprogram)

For more information, please contact a  
**Community Resource Person** nearest you.

### **Volunteers of America, Dakotas**

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The ETV Program is a service  
of the Department of Social  
Services' Division of Child  
Protection Services.

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# Education & Training Voucher Program



Financial Assistance for Youth in Foster Care  
for Post-Secondary Education and Training

**DSS**   
**Strong Families - South Dakota's Foundation and Our Future**



## Education & Training Voucher Program Eligibility Requirements

The Education and Training Voucher (ETV) Program provides funding to assist South Dakota youth in foster care with continued education and training after high school or a GED equivalent.



ETV funds are financial assistance that can aid youth in reaching their goals and successful independence through education and training. If youth are eligible for the program, they could receive up to \$5,000 a year to attend college or vocational school or to learn a trade.

### ETV funds can be used to help pay for:

- ✓ Tuition and Fees
- ✓ Books and Supplies
- ✓ Room and Board
- ✓ Tools and Uniforms
- ✓ Tutoring
- ✓ Parking Permits
- ✓ Meal Plans
- ✓ Transportation Costs
- ✓ Employment-Related Needs
- ✓ Child Care
- ✓ Health Insurance
- ✓ Mental Health Services

Current and former foster care youth eligible for Independent Living Program services are eligible for ETV funds. Youth must have a financial need in order to receive funding.

### Requirements include:

- ✓ A high school diploma, GED Certificate of Completion, or equivalent.
- ✓ ETV funds assist youth who are likely to remain in foster care until 18 years of age prepare for and enter post-secondary training and education institutions.
- ✓ Enrolled in or accepted to a post-secondary or vocational school program.
- ✓ ETV funds can be received by youth who are adopted from foster care after attaining age 16 or older.

## Applying for ETV Funds

To apply for ETV funds, an application must be completed. When applying, all school and training expenses are considered.

### Youth must also submit the following when applying for funding:

- ✓ A one-page essay describing qualifications for a scholarship based on academic performance, financial need, and plans for education.
- ✓ A copy of acceptance letter from the college or vocational school.
- ✓ A cover letter from a Family Services Specialist or adoptive parent.
- ✓ Stanford Achievement Test (SAT), American Collegiate Test (ACT), or Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE) test scores as required by the school.
- ✓ A copy of Free Application for Student Financial Assistance (FAFSA), if appropriate.
- ✓ "Cost of Attendance" completed and signed by the financial aid officer.

### If approved for funding, youth must reapply every semester. Requirements include:

- ✓ A transcript of prior semester's grades.
- ✓ At least a 2.0 grade point average.
- ✓ A letter describing how the money was used and why the need for financial assistance should continue.